

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG: ETRN:ECAFE

SUBJ: RED: ECAFE TENTH SESSION WATER TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE,
BANGKOK, 31 OCT. - 7 NOV 73.

REF : STATE 214814

DEPARTMENT PAS DOT AND MARITIME ADMIN.

1. DURING FINAL SESSION NOVEMBER 7, SUB-COMMITTEE ADOPTED REPORT WHICH SUMMARIZED DELIBERATIONS OF DELEGATES FROM 12 REGIONAL AND 5 NON-REGIONAL COUNTRIES AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMANY AND NORWAY. ALSO PARTICIPATING IN MEETING WERE FOUR UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, UNDP, INT'L. ASSOC. OF PORTS AND HARBOURS INT'L. CHAMBER OF SHIPPING, INT'L. MARINE RADIO ASSOC. AND SEA REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (SEATAC). PROVISIONAL AGENDA ADOPTED WITH NO CHANGES.

2. DURING DISCUSSIONS OF AGENDA ITEM 4 INCLUDING SUBSECTIONS (A) THROUGH (H), NO RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS CARRIED EXCEPT COORDINATION OF STUDIES IN WORK PROGRAM. AT USG URGING SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON MULTIMODAL DRAFT CONVENTION AVOIDED. NUMEROUS LDC EXPRESSIONS FOR SOFT VESSEL FINANCING TERMS NOT SUPPORTED BY ANY DEVELOPED COUNTRY DELEGATIONS. REGIONALIZATION PROPOSALS STRONGLY RESISTED IN DEBATE BY UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVELAR DEVELOPED COUNTRY DELEGATIONS AND NOT SHARPLY ARGUED BY

LDCS. INDIA FELT SOME OF ITS TRADES OVERRATIONALIZED TO
DETRIMENT OF ITS COMMERCE AND RECOMMENDED A STUDY OF THE
ADVANTAGES OF OPEN VS. CLOSED CONFERENCES. NUMEROUS OFFERS OF
EXPERT ASSISTANCE NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORT ON ECAFE STUDIES WERE
MADE BY OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRY DELEGATIONS PARTICULARLY JAPAN
AND NETHERLANDS. GREAT INTEREST MANIFESTED IN REGIONAL
POTENTIAL OF BARGE CARRYING VESSELS (BCV). US REP. JOINED WITH
SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS IN PLEDGING US WOULD EXAMINE ON ITS
MERITS ANY ECAFE PROPOSAL FOR
OA BCV STUDY AND TRY TO OFFER
APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

3. NO DISCUSSION ON MATTERS UNDER AGENDA ITEM 5 SIGNIFICANT TO
USG.

4. REGARDING MOK PROGRAMS, DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING,
18 SEPARATE NEW PROPOSALS FOR WORK PROGRAMS WERE MENTIONED IN
THE DISCUSSION, INCLUDING A STUDY OF BARGE CARRYING VESSEL (BCV)
SYSTEMS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING RO/RO SHIPS WITH
LIFTING CAPABILITIES IN THE ECAFE REGION. THE SECRETARIAT
PRESENTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERM REPS RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING ECAFE RATIONALIZATION, A STREAMLINED WORK PROGRAM WITH-
OUT THE USUAL LISTING OF OLD UNFINISHED OR UNDONE WORK PROJECTS.
THE SOVIETS STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THIS NEW PROCEDURE AND DEMANDED
THAT OLD PROGRAMS BE LISTED CLAIMING THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO
ACT ON THE PERM REPS' DELIBERATIONS. PAKISTAN ALSO OBJECTED TO
THE NEW FORMAT WITH THE SUPPORT OF INDONESIA. JAPAN AND NETHER-
LANDS, NEVERTHELESS, COMMENDED THE SECRETARIAT FOR ITS NEW
STREAMLINED APPROACH. BANGLADESH THEN DEMANDED INCLUSION OF
ALL ITS PET ECAFE PROGRAMS; HYDRAULIC STUDIES, BCV SYSTEMS AND
DREDGING. LAOS ALSO DEMANDED THE RETENTION OF THE DIESEL
MECHANICS TRAINING CENTER. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE WORK PROGRAM
LISTING SHOULD BE CALLED A RECOMMENDATION. AFTER LENGTHY
DEBATE BETWEEN JAPAN AND PAKISTAN, SECRETARIAT FINALLY WITHDREW
PAPER AND RESUBMITTED A LONGER REVISED DRAFT AS WELL AS A LIST,
FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES, OF WATER TRANSPORT WORK PROGRAMS
ESTABLISHED BY THE ECAFE COMMISSION AT ITS 29TH SESSION. SUB-
COMMITTEE EVENTUALLY AGREED TO REVISED DRAFT WHICH WAS SYNTHESIS OF
OLD PROGRAMS AND NEW PROPOSALS. AT ANY RATE, THE NEW WORK PROGRAM
FOR WATER TRANSPORT NO LONGER INCLUDES "COLLECTION, REVIEW AND
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DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON TECHNICAL SUBJECTS" AS A PROGRAM
OF WORK. ALSO, FOR THE FIRST TIME, MORE REFERENCES ARE MADE TO
THE TRADE COMMITTEE AS A PARTICIPATING UNIT IN THE INDIVIDUAL
PROGRAMS.

5. DELEGATION REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED TO ADDRESSEES WITHIN
30 DAYS.
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